

# House File 27 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 27

BY HUNTER

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to campaign finance by establishing a  
2 voter-owned Iowa clean elections Act and fund, providing  
3 for funding from specified sources, including an income  
4 tax checkoff, providing an income tax exemption for  
5 contributions made to the fund, providing penalties, and  
6 including effective date provisions.  
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 68A.603, Code 2015, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 **68A.603 Rules promulgated.**

4 The ethics and campaign disclosure board shall administer  
5 the provisions of sections 68A.601 ~~through 68A.609~~, 68A.602,  
6 and 68A.604 through 68A.610 and shall promulgate all necessary  
7 rules in accordance with chapter 17A.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **68A.610 Checkoff — income tax —**  
9 **voter-owned Iowa clean elections.**

10 A person whose state income tax liability for any taxable  
11 year is five dollars or more may direct that five dollars  
12 of that liability be paid over to the voter-owned Iowa  
13 clean elections fund, as established in section 68A.823,  
14 when submitting the person's state income tax return to the  
15 department of revenue. In the case of a joint return of  
16 husband and wife having a state income tax liability of ten  
17 dollars or more, each spouse may direct that five dollars  
18 be paid to the fund. The director of revenue shall provide  
19 space for the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund income  
20 tax checkoff on the income tax form. An explanation shall  
21 be included which clearly states that the checkoff does not  
22 constitute an additional tax liability. The action taken by a  
23 person for the checkoff is irrevocable.

24 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **68A.801 Definitions.**

25 For the purposes of this subchapter, unless the context  
26 otherwise requires:

- 27 1. "*Allowable contribution*" means a qualifying contribution  
28 or a seed money contribution.
- 29 2. "*Board*" means the Iowa ethics and campaign disclosure  
30 board established under section 68B.32.
- 31 3. "*Clean election campaign qualifying period*" means the  
32 period during which candidates are permitted to collect  
33 qualifying contributions in order to qualify for clean election  
34 campaign funding. The period begins ninety days before the  
35 beginning of the primary election campaign period and ends

1 thirty days before the beginning of the primary election  
2 campaign period.

3 4. "*Coordination*" means a payment made for a communication  
4 or anything of value that is for the purpose of influencing the  
5 outcome of an election and that is made by a person according  
6 to at least one of the following:

7 a. In cooperation, consultation, or concert with, at  
8 the request or suggestion of, or pursuant to, a particular  
9 understanding with a candidate, a candidate's committee, or an  
10 agent acting on behalf of a candidate or candidate's committee.

11 b. For the dissemination, distribution, or republication,  
12 in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written, graphic,  
13 or other form of campaign material prepared by a candidate,  
14 a candidate's committee, or an agent of a candidate or  
15 candidate's committee.

16 c. Based on specific information about the candidate's  
17 plans, projects, or needs provided to the person making the  
18 payment by the candidate or the candidate's agent who provides  
19 the information with a view toward having the payment made.

20 d. If in the same election cycle in which the payment is  
21 made, the person making the payment is serving or has served as  
22 a member, employee, fund-raiser, or agent of the candidate or  
23 candidate's committee in an executive or policymaking position.

24 e. If the person making the payment has served in any formal  
25 policy or advisory position with the candidate's campaign or  
26 has participated in strategic or policymaking discussions with  
27 the candidate's campaign relating to the candidate's pursuit of  
28 nomination for election, or election, to office, in the same  
29 election cycle as the election cycle in which the payment is  
30 made.

31 f. If the person making the payment retains the professional  
32 services of an individual or person who, in a nonministerial  
33 capacity, has provided or is providing campaign-related  
34 services in the same election cycle to a candidate who  
35 is pursuing the same nomination or election as any of the

1 candidates to whom the communication refers. For purposes  
2 of this section, "*professional services*" includes services in  
3 support of a candidate's pursuit of nomination for election or  
4 election to office such as polling, media advice, direct mail,  
5 fund-raising, or campaign research services.

6 5. "*Electioneering communication*" means any communication  
7 that refers to a clearly identified candidate for elected  
8 public office if the communication has the effect of  
9 encouraging or discouraging a vote for the candidate,  
10 regardless of whether the communication expressly advocates a  
11 vote for or against the candidate.

12 6. "*Excess expenditure amount*" means the amount of  
13 money spent or obligated to be spent by a nonparticipating  
14 candidate in excess of the clean money amount available to a  
15 participating candidate running for the same office.

16 7. "*Express advocacy*" means the same as defined in section  
17 68A.102.

18 8. "*General election campaign period*" means the period  
19 beginning the day after the primary election and ending on the  
20 day of the general election.

21 9. "*Independent candidate*" means a candidate who does not  
22 represent a political party as defined by section 43.2.

23 10. "*Independent expenditure*" means an expenditure made  
24 by a person or group of persons other than a candidate or  
25 candidate's committee that meets both of the following  
26 conditions:

27 a. The expenditure is made for a communication that contains  
28 express advocacy.

29 b. The expenditure is made without the participation or  
30 cooperation of and without coordination with a candidate or a  
31 candidate's committee.

32 11. "*Nonparticipating candidate*" means a candidate who is  
33 on the ballot but has chosen not to apply for clean election  
34 campaign funding or a candidate who is on the ballot and  
35 has applied for but has not satisfied the requirements for

1 receiving clean election campaign funding.

2 12. "*Participating candidate*" means a candidate who  
3 qualifies for clean election campaign funding. Such candidates  
4 are eligible to receive clean election campaign funding during  
5 primary or general election campaign periods.

6 13. "*Party candidate*" means a candidate who represents a  
7 political party as defined by section 43.2.

8 14. "*Primary election campaign period*" means the period  
9 beginning ninety days before the primary election and ending on  
10 the day of the primary election.

11 15. "*Qualifying contribution*" means a contribution of five  
12 dollars or more that is received during the designated clean  
13 election campaign qualifying period by a candidate seeking to  
14 become eligible for clean election campaign funding and that is  
15 acknowledged by a written receipt identifying the contributor.  
16 However, if the annual median household income of a legislative  
17 district is at or below one hundred percent of the most recent  
18 federal poverty guideline based on United States census bureau  
19 data, the qualifying contribution is one dollar.

20 16. "*Seed money contribution*" means a contribution of no  
21 more than one hundred dollars made by an individual person who  
22 is at least eighteen years of age during the seed money period,  
23 but specifically excludes all of the following:

24 a. Payments by a membership organization for the costs of  
25 communications to its members.

26 b. Payments by a membership organization for the purpose of  
27 facilitating the making of qualifying contributions.

28 c. The cash value of volunteer activity, including the  
29 payment of incidental expenses of volunteers.

30 17. "*Seed money period*" means the period beginning the  
31 day following the previous general election for that office  
32 and ending on the last day of the clean election campaign  
33 qualifying period. The "*seed money period*" is the exploratory  
34 period during which candidates who wish to become eligible  
35 for clean election campaign funding for the next elections

1 are permitted to raise and spend a limited amount of private  
2 seed money, from contributions of up to one hundred dollars  
3 per individual, for the purpose of determining whether to  
4 become a candidate and fulfilling the clean election campaign  
5 eligibility requirements.

6     Sec. 4. NEW SECTION.   **68A.802 Eligibility for party**  
7 **candidates.**

8     1. A party candidate qualifies as a participating candidate  
9 for the primary election campaign period if the candidate does  
10 both of the following:

11     a. The candidate files a declaration with the board that  
12 the candidate has complied and will comply with all of the  
13 requirements of this subchapter, including the requirement  
14 that during the seed money period and the clean election  
15 campaign qualifying period the candidate not accept or  
16 spend private contributions from any source other than seed  
17 money contributions and clean election campaign qualifying  
18 contributions, unless the provisions of section 68A.804 apply.

19     b. The candidate meets both of the following qualifying  
20 contribution requirements before the close of the clean  
21 election campaign qualifying period:

22         (1) A party candidate must collect both qualifying  
23 contributions and signatures as follows:

24             (a) For the office of governor, from five hundred eligible  
25 electors in each congressional district.

26             (b) For statewide office other than governor, from two  
27 hundred fifty eligible electors in each congressional district.

28             (c) For the Iowa senate, from two hundred eligible electors  
29 in the senate candidate's electoral district.

30             (d) For the Iowa house of representatives, from one hundred  
31 eligible electors in the house candidate's electoral district.

32         (2) Each qualifying contribution must meet all requirements  
33 of this section.

34     2. Contributors shall be eligible electors who reside  
35 within the candidate's electoral district and who are therefore

1 eligible to vote for that candidate.

2 3. Qualifying contributions shall be:

3 a. Made in cash, check, money order, or credit or debit  
4 card.

5 b. Gathered by the candidate personally or by volunteers who  
6 do not receive compensation.

7 c. Acknowledged by a receipt to the contributor, with  
8 a copy to be kept by the candidate and a third copy to be  
9 submitted to the board. The receipt shall include a signed  
10 statement that the contributor understands that the purpose of  
11 the contribution is to help the candidate qualify for clean  
12 election campaign funding and that the contribution is made  
13 without coercion or reimbursement. The receipt shall include  
14 the contributor's signature, printed name, home address, and  
15 telephone number, and the name of the candidate on whose behalf  
16 the contribution is made.

17 d. Paid over to the board for deposit in the voter-owned  
18 Iowa clean elections fund established under section 68A.823,  
19 with the signed and completed receipt, according to a schedule  
20 and procedure to be determined by the board. A contribution  
21 submitted as a qualifying contribution that does not include  
22 the signed and completed receipt shall not be counted as a  
23 qualifying contribution.

24 4. A party candidate qualifies as a participating candidate  
25 for the general election campaign period when the candidate  
26 does both of the following:

27 a. The candidate has met all of the applicable requirements  
28 of this subchapter and filed a declaration with the board  
29 that the candidate has fulfilled and will fulfill all of the  
30 requirements of a participating candidate as stated in this  
31 subchapter.

32 b. As a participating candidate during the primary election  
33 campaign period, the candidate had the highest number of votes  
34 of the candidates contesting the primary election from the  
35 candidate's respective party and won the party's nomination.

1     Sec. 5. NEW SECTION.   68A.803   Eligibility for independent  
2 candidates.

3     1. An independent candidate qualifies as a participating  
4 candidate for the primary election campaign period if the  
5 candidate does both of the following:

6     a. The candidate files a declaration with the board that  
7 the candidate has complied and will comply with all of the  
8 requirements of this subchapter, including the requirement  
9 that during the seed money period and the clean election  
10 campaign qualifying period the candidate not accept or  
11 spend private contributions from any source other than seed  
12 money contributions and clean election campaign qualifying  
13 contributions, unless the provisions of section 68A.804 apply.

14    b. The candidate meets the following qualifying contribution  
15 requirements before the close of the clean election campaign  
16 qualifying period:

17     (1) An independent candidate shall collect the same number  
18 of qualifying contributions as required of a party candidate  
19 for the same office under section 68A.802.

20     (2) Each qualifying contribution must meet all requirements  
21 of this section.

22    2. Contributors shall be registered voters who reside  
23 within the candidate's electoral district and who are therefore  
24 eligible to vote for that candidate.

25    3. Qualifying contributions shall be:

26     a. Made in cash, check, money order, or credit or debit  
27 card.

28     b. Gathered by the candidate personally or by volunteers who  
29 do not receive compensation.

30     c. Acknowledged by a receipt to the contributor, with  
31 a copy to be kept by the candidate and a third copy to be  
32 submitted to the board. The receipt shall include a signed  
33 statement that the contributor understands that the purpose of  
34 the contribution is to help the candidate qualify for clean  
35 election campaign funding and that the contribution is made



1 without coercion or reimbursement. The receipt shall include  
2 the contributor's signature, printed name, home address, and  
3 telephone number, and the name of the candidate on whose behalf  
4 the contribution is made.

5     *d.* Paid over to the board for deposit in the voter-owned  
6 Iowa clean elections fund established under section 68A.823,  
7 with the signed and completed receipt, according to a schedule  
8 and procedure to be determined by the board. A contribution  
9 submitted as a qualifying contribution that does not include  
10 the signed and completed receipt shall not be counted as a  
11 qualifying contribution.

12     4. An independent candidate qualifies as a participating  
13 candidate for the general election campaign period when the  
14 candidate does both of the following:

15     *a.* If, prior to the primary election, the candidate has met  
16 all of the applicable requirements of this subchapter and filed  
17 a declaration with the board that the candidate has fulfilled  
18 and will fulfill all of the requirements of a participating  
19 candidate as stated in this subchapter.

20     *b.* If, during the primary election campaign period, the  
21 candidate has fulfilled all the requirements of a participating  
22 candidate as stated in this subchapter.

23     Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 68A.804 Transition rule for current  
24 election cycle.

25     During the election cycle in effect on the date of enactment  
26 of this Act, a candidate may be certified as a participating  
27 candidate, notwithstanding the acceptance of contributions  
28 or making of expenditures from private funds before the date  
29 of enactment of this Act that would, absent this section,  
30 disqualify the candidate as a participating candidate, provided  
31 that any private funds accepted but not expended before the  
32 date of enactment of this Act shall either be returned to  
33 the contributor or submitted to the board for deposit in the  
34 voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund established under section  
35 68A.823.

1     Sec. 7. NEW SECTION.   **68A.805**   Continuing obligation to  
2   **comply.**

3     A participating candidate who accepts any benefits under  
4   section 68A.813 during the primary election campaign period  
5   shall comply with all the requirements of this subchapter  
6   through any remaining time during the primary election campaign  
7   period as well as through the general election campaign period  
8   whether or not the candidate continues to accept benefits.

9     Sec. 8. NEW SECTION.   **68A.806**   Contributions and  
10  **expenditures.**

11    1. During the primary and general election campaign  
12   periods, a participating candidate who has voluntarily agreed  
13   to participate in clean election campaign financing shall not  
14   accept private contributions from any source other than the  
15   candidate's political party, as specified in section 68A.808.

16    2. A person shall not make a contribution in violation  
17   of section 68A.502. A participating candidate who receives  
18   a qualifying contribution or a seed money contribution that  
19   is not from the person listed on the receipt as required by  
20   this subchapter shall pay to the board for deposit in the  
21   voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund established under section  
22   68A.823 the entire amount of such contribution.

23    3. The board shall issue each participating candidate a  
24   card known as the "clean election campaign debit card", and a  
25   line of debit entitling the candidate to draw clean election  
26   campaign funds to pay for all campaign costs and expenses up to  
27   the amount of funding the candidate has received. During the  
28   primary and general election campaign periods, a participating  
29   candidate shall pay by means of the board's clean election  
30   campaign debit card. A participating candidate shall not pay  
31   campaign costs by cash, check, money order, loan, or by any  
32   other financial means other than the clean election campaign  
33   debit card.

34    4. Eligible candidates shall furnish complete campaign  
35   records, including all records of seed money contributions and

1 qualifying contributions, to the board at regular filing times,  
2 or on request by the board. Candidates shall cooperate with  
3 any audit or examination conducted or ordered by the board.

4     Sec. 9. NEW SECTION.   **68A.807 Nonparticipating candidates**  
5 **— contribution limits.**

6     Nonparticipating candidates shall be subject to the  
7 following contribution limits:

8     1. Candidates for statewide office:

9       a. One thousand dollars in the aggregate per individual  
10 contribution.

11      b. Five thousand dollars in the aggregate per political  
12 committee contribution.

13     2. Candidates for the Iowa senate and house of  
14 representatives:

15       a. Five hundred dollars in the aggregate per individual  
16 contribution.

17       b. One thousand dollars in the aggregate per political  
18 committee contribution.

19     Sec. 10. NEW SECTION.   **68A.808 Political party contributions**  
20 **and expenditures.**

21     1. Participating candidates may accept monetary or in-kind  
22 contributions from political parties provided that the  
23 aggregate amount of such contributions from all political party  
24 committees combined does not exceed the equivalent of five  
25 percent of the clean election campaign financing amount for  
26 that office.

27     2. In-kind contributions made during a general election  
28 campaign period on behalf of a group of the party's candidates  
29 shall not be considered a prohibited party contribution or  
30 count against the five percent limit established in subsection  
31 1 if such group includes at least fifty-one percent of the  
32 candidates whose names will appear on the general election  
33 ballot in the political subdivision represented by the party  
34 committee making such in-kind contributions.

35     3. Contributions made to, and expenditures made by,

1 political parties during primary and general campaign  
2 periods shall be reported to the board on the same basis as  
3 contributions and expenditures made to or by candidates.

4 4. This section and this subchapter shall not prevent  
5 political party funds from being used for any of the following:

6 a. General operating expenses of the party.

7 b. Conventions.

8 c. Nominating and endorsing candidates.

9 d. Identifying, researching, and developing the party's  
10 positions on issues.

11 e. Party platform activities.

12 f. Noncandidate-specific voter registration drives.

13 g. Noncandidate-specific get-out-the-vote drives.

14 h. Travel expenses for noncandidate party leaders and staff.

15 i. Other noncandidate-specific party-building activities,  
16 as defined by rule of the board.

17 j. Employing a staff person to provide election services to  
18 two or more candidates.

19 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 68A.809 Use of personal funds.

20 1. Personal funds contributed as seed money by a candidate  
21 seeking to become eligible as a participating candidate or by  
22 the candidate's spouse shall not exceed one hundred dollars per  
23 contributor.

24 2. Personal funds shall not be used to meet the qualifying  
25 contribution requirement except for one five-dollar  
26 contribution from the candidate and one five-dollar  
27 contribution from the candidate's spouse.

28 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 68A.810 Seed money.

29 1. The only private contributions a candidate seeking  
30 to become eligible for clean election campaign funding shall  
31 accept, other than qualifying contributions, are seed money  
32 contributions contributed by individual persons who are at  
33 least eighteen years of age prior to the end of the clean  
34 election campaign qualifying period.

35 2. A seed money contribution shall not exceed one hundred

1 dollars, and the aggregate amount of seed money contributions  
2 accepted by a candidate seeking to become eligible for clean  
3 election campaign funding shall not exceed the relevant limit,  
4 as follows:

5     *a.* Twenty-five thousand dollars for a candidate team running  
6 for governor and lieutenant governor.

7     *b.* Fifteen thousand dollars for a candidate running for  
8 statewide office other than governor or lieutenant governor.

9     *c.* Two thousand dollars for a candidate running for the Iowa  
10 senate.

11     *d.* One thousand dollars for a candidate running for the Iowa  
12 house of representatives.

13     3. Receipts for seed money contributions shall include  
14 the contributor's signature, printed name, street address and  
15 zip code, telephone number, occupation, and name of employer.  
16 Contributions shall not be accepted if the required disclosure  
17 information is not received.

18     4. Seed money shall be spent only during the clean election  
19 campaign qualifying period. Seed money shall not be spent  
20 during the primary or general election campaign periods.

21     5. Within forty-eight hours after the close of the clean  
22 election campaign qualifying period, candidates seeking to  
23 become eligible for clean election campaign funding shall do  
24 both of the following:

25     *a.* Fully disclose all seed money contributions and  
26 expenditures to the board.

27     *b.* Pay over to the board for deposit in the voter-owned  
28 Iowa clean elections fund any seed money the candidate has  
29 raised during the designated seed money period that exceeds the  
30 aggregate seed money limit.

31     Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. **68A.811 Participation in debates.**

32     1. Participating candidates in contested races shall  
33 participate in all of the following:

34     *a.* For the offices of governor and lieutenant governor:

35     (1) One one-hour debate during a contested primary

1 election.

2 (2) Two one-hour debates during a contested general  
3 election.

4 b. For all other offices:

5 (1) One one-hour debate during a contested primary  
6 election.

7 (2) One one-hour debate during a contested general  
8 election.

9 2. Nonparticipating candidates for the same office whose  
10 names will appear on the ballot shall be invited to join the  
11 debates.

12 Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. **68A.812 Certification.**

13 1. No more than five days after a candidate applies for  
14 clean election campaign funding benefits, the board shall  
15 certify that the candidate is or is not eligible to receive  
16 clean election campaign funds.

17 2. The board may revoke a candidate's eligibility if  
18 the board determines that the candidate has violated the  
19 requirements of this subchapter, in which case the candidate  
20 shall repay all clean election campaign funds received by the  
21 candidate.

22 3. The candidate's request for certification shall be  
23 signed by the candidate and the treasurer of the candidate's  
24 committee, both under penalty of perjury.

25 4. The board's determination is final except that it is  
26 subject to examination and audit by an outside agency and to  
27 prompt judicial review, in compliance with rules promulgated by  
28 the board in accordance with chapter 17A.

29 Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. **68A.813 Benefits provided to**  
30 **candidates eligible to receive clean election campaign funding.**

31 1. Candidates who qualify for clean election campaign  
32 funding for primary and general elections shall receive all of  
33 the following:

34 a. Clean election campaign funding from the board for each  
35 election, the amount of which is specified in section 68A.815.

1 This funding may be used to finance any and all campaign  
2 expenses during the particular campaign period for which it is  
3 received.

4     *b.* Additional clean election campaign funding to match  
5 any excess expenditure amount spent by a nonparticipating  
6 candidate, as specified in section 68A.817.

7     *c.* Additional clean election campaign funding to match any  
8 independent expenditure made in opposition to their candidacies  
9 or on behalf of their opponents' candidacies, as specified in  
10 section 68A.819.

11     *d.* Additional clean election campaign funding to match  
12 any electioneering communication expenditure, as specified in  
13 section 68A.820.

14     2. The maximum aggregate amount of additional funding above  
15 the initial allocation determined under section 68A.815 that  
16 a participating candidate shall receive to match independent  
17 expenditures, the excess expenditures of nonparticipating  
18 candidates, and electioneering communication expenditures shall  
19 be two hundred percent of the full amount of clean election  
20 campaign funding allocated to a participating candidate for a  
21 particular primary or general election campaign period.

22     Sec. 16. NEW SECTION. **68A.814 Schedule of clean election**  
23 **campaign funding payments.**

24     1. An eligible candidate shall receive clean election  
25 campaign funding for the primary election campaign period  
26 on the date on which the board certifies the candidate as a  
27 participating candidate. This certification shall take place  
28 no later than five days after the candidate has submitted the  
29 required number of qualifying contributions and a declaration  
30 stating that the candidate has complied with all other  
31 requirements for eligibility as a participating candidate, but  
32 no earlier than the beginning of the primary election campaign  
33 period.

34     2. An eligible candidate shall receive clean election  
35 campaign funding for the general election campaign period

1 within forty-eight hours after certification of the primary  
2 election results.

3     Sec. 17. NEW SECTION.   **68A.815 Determination of clean**  
4 **election campaign funding amounts.**

5     1. *a.* For party candidates, the amount of clean election  
6 campaign funding for a contested primary election is as  
7 follows:

8       (1) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for a candidate  
9 team running for governor and lieutenant governor.

10      (2) Seventy-five thousand dollars for a candidate for  
11 statewide office other than governor and lieutenant governor.

12      (3) Twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars for a  
13 candidate running for the Iowa senate.

14      (4) Fifteen thousand dollars for a candidate running for the  
15 Iowa house of representatives.

16     *b.* The clean election campaign funding amount for an  
17 eligible party candidate in an uncontested primary election  
18 is twenty-five percent of the amount provided in a contested  
19 primary election.

20     *c.* In a contested general election, if an eligible party  
21 candidate or all of the candidates of the candidate's party  
22 combined received at least twenty percent of the total number  
23 of votes cast for all candidates seeking that office in  
24 the most recent primary election or in the previous general  
25 election, the candidate shall receive the full amount of clean  
26 election campaign funding for the general election, as follows:

27       (1) Three million dollars for a candidate team running for  
28 governor and lieutenant governor.

29       (2) Two hundred thousand dollars for a candidate for  
30 statewide office other than governor and lieutenant governor.

31       (3) Forty thousand dollars for a candidate running for the  
32 Iowa senate.

33       (4) Thirty thousand dollars for a candidate running for the  
34 Iowa house of representatives.

35     *d.* The clean election campaign funding amount for an



1 eligible party candidate in an uncontested general election  
2 is ten percent of the amount provided in a contested general  
3 election for the same office.

4 2. a. For eligible independent candidates, the clean  
5 election campaign funding amount for the primary election  
6 campaign period is twenty-five percent of the amount of clean  
7 election campaign funding received by a party candidate in a  
8 contested primary election for the same office.

9 b. The clean election campaign funding amount for an  
10 eligible independent candidate in the general election is the  
11 same as the full amount received by a party candidate in the  
12 general election for the same office.

13 c. After the first cycle of clean election campaign  
14 financing elections, the board shall modify all clean election  
15 campaign funding amounts based on the percentage increase in  
16 the consumer price index, for all urban consumers, United  
17 States city average, as published in the federal register  
18 by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor  
19 statistics, that reflects the percentage increase in the  
20 consumer price index for the twelve-month period ending  
21 December 31 of the previous year.

22 Sec. 18. NEW SECTION. 68A.816 Expenditures made with clean  
23 election campaign funds.

24 1. The clean election campaign funding received by a  
25 participating candidate shall be used only for the purpose of  
26 defraying that candidate's campaign-related expenses during  
27 the particular election campaign period for which the clean  
28 election campaign funding was received.

29 2. Payments shall not be used for the following:

30 a. Payments that are in violation of the law.

31 b. Payments that repay any personal, family, or business  
32 loans, expenditures, or debts.

33 Sec. 19. NEW SECTION. 68A.817 Disclosure of excess spending  
34 by nonparticipating candidates.

35 1. If a nonparticipating candidate's total expenditures

1 exceed the amount of clean election campaign funding allocated  
2 to the candidate's clean election campaign opponent, the  
3 candidate shall declare to the board within forty-eight hours  
4 every excess expenditure amount that, in the aggregate, is more  
5 than one thousand dollars.

6 2. During the last twenty days before the end of the  
7 relevant campaign period, a nonparticipating candidate shall  
8 declare to the board each excess expenditure amount over  
9 five hundred dollars within twenty-four hours of when the  
10 expenditure is made or obligated to be made.

11 3. The board may make its own determination as to whether  
12 excess expenditures have been made by nonparticipating  
13 candidates.

14 4. Upon receiving an excess expenditure declaration, the  
15 board shall immediately release additional clean election  
16 campaign funding to the opposing participating candidate  
17 or candidates equal to the excess expenditure amount the  
18 nonparticipating candidate has spent or intends to spend,  
19 subject to the limit set forth in section 68A.813.

20 Sec. 20. NEW SECTION. **68A.818 Campaign advertisements.**

21 All broadcast and print advertisements placed by candidates  
22 or candidate's committees shall, in addition to the  
23 requirements of section 68A.405, include a clear written or  
24 spoken statement indicating that the candidate has approved of  
25 the contents of the advertisement.

26 Sec. 21. NEW SECTION. **68A.819 Disclosure of independent  
27 expenditures — additional clean election campaign funding.**

28 1. Any person or group of persons who makes or obligates  
29 to make an independent expenditure during a primary or general  
30 election campaign period which, in the aggregate, exceeds one  
31 thousand dollars, shall report each expenditure within forty-  
32 eight hours to the board.

33 2. The report to the board shall include a statement,  
34 under penalty of perjury, by the person or persons making  
35 the independent expenditure identifying the candidate the

1 independent expenditure is intended to help elect or defeat  
2 and affirming that the expenditure is totally independent and  
3 involves no coordination with a candidate or a political party.

4     *a.* An individual or organization may file a complaint with  
5 the board if the candidate or the organization believes that  
6 the statement according to this subsection is false.

7     *b.* A hearing on a complaint under this subsection shall be  
8 held within three business days of filing and a decision issued  
9 within seven days of filing.

10     3. Any person or group of persons who makes or obligates  
11 to make an independent expenditure during the last twenty days  
12 before the end of the relevant campaign period which, in the  
13 aggregate, exceeds five hundred dollars, shall report each  
14 expenditure within twenty-four hours to the board.

15     4. Upon receiving a report that an independent expenditure  
16 has been made or obligated to be made, the board shall  
17 immediately release additional clean election campaign funding,  
18 equal in amount to the cost of the independent expenditure, to  
19 all participating candidates the independent expenditure is  
20 intended to oppose or defeat, subject to the limit set forth  
21 in section 68A.813.

22     Sec. 22. NEW SECTION. 68A.820 Electioneering communications  
23 — disclosure — additional clean election campaign funding.

24     1. A person who makes or obligates to make a disbursement to  
25 purchase an electioneering communication shall file a report  
26 with the board not later than forty-eight hours after making or  
27 obligating to make the disbursement, containing the following  
28 information:

29     *a.* The amount of the disbursement.

30     *b.* The name and address of the person making the  
31 disbursement.

32     *c.* The purpose of the electioneering communication.

33     2. Upon receiving a report that an electioneering  
34 communication has been made or obligated to be made, and  
35 upon determination that the electioneering communication can

1 reasonably be interpreted as having the effect of promoting  
 2 the defeat of a participating candidate or the election  
 3 of that candidate's opponent, the board shall immediately  
 4 release to that candidate additional clean election campaign  
 5 funding, equal in amount to the cost of the electioneering  
 6 communication, subject to the limit set forth in section  
 7 68A.813.

8     Sec. 23. NEW SECTION.   **68A.821 Voter information program.**

9     1. The board shall establish and administer a nonpartisan  
 10 voter information program, including an advisory council  
 11 consisting of representatives of nonprofit organizations,  
 12 political parties, the media, and interested citizens.

13    2. The voter information program advisory council may  
 14 establish a voter information program for the purpose of  
 15 providing voters with election-related information and  
 16 fostering political dialogue and debate.

17    3. The voter information program advisory council  
 18 shall organize the publication and distribution of a voter  
 19 information guide that includes important information about the  
 20 following issues:

21     a. Candidates appearing on the ballot, including  
 22 biographical material submitted by the candidates.

23     b. Whether candidates are funding their campaigns with  
 24 public money or private money.

25     c. Policy statements by the candidates or their political  
 26 parties on issues designated by the council and other issues.

27     d. Candidates' voting records.

28    Sec. 24. NEW SECTION.   **68A.822 Debates.**

29    1. A nonpartisan organization that is involved in  
 30 providing information to the public concerning elections, or a  
 31 nonpartisan organization that has been involved in education  
 32 and the advocacy of open, clean election and campaign laws for  
 33 at least five years, may host and sponsor voter-owned Iowa  
 34 clean election candidate debates in contested primary and  
 35 general elections.

1     2. All participating candidates shall participate in the  
2 debates and all nonparticipating candidates for the same office  
3 whose names will appear on the ballot shall be invited to join  
4 the debates.

5     Sec. 25. NEW SECTION. 68A.823 Voter-owned Iowa clean  
6 elections fund (VOICE) — nature and purposes.

7     1. A voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund is established as  
8 a separate fund within the office of the state treasurer, under  
9 the control of the board, for the following purposes:

10    a. Providing public financing for the election campaigns of  
11 certified participating candidates during primary election and  
12 general election campaign periods.

13    b. Paying for the administrative and enforcement costs of  
14 the board in relation to this subchapter.

15     2. The fund shall consist of moneys received pursuant to  
16 section 68A.824. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered  
17 or unobligated moneys and any interest earned on moneys in the  
18 fund on June 30 of any fiscal year shall not revert to the  
19 general fund of the state but shall remain in the fund and be  
20 available for expenditure in subsequent years.

21     Sec. 26. NEW SECTION. 68A.824 Funding.

22     In addition to any moneys appropriated by the general  
23 assembly to the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund  
24 established in section 68A.823, the following moneys shall be  
25 deposited in the fund:

26     1. The qualifying contributions required of candidates  
27 seeking to become certified as participating candidates  
28 according to section 68A.802 or 68A.803 and candidates' excess  
29 qualifying contributions.

30     2. Moneys credited to the fund pursuant to sections 68A.610  
31 and 556.18.

32     3. The excess seed money contributions of candidates  
33 seeking to become certified as participating candidates.

34     4. Moneys distributed to any participating candidate  
35 who does not remain a candidate until the primary or general

1 election for which they were distributed.

2 5. Civil penalties levied by the board against candidates  
3 for violations of this subchapter.

4 6. Voluntary donations made directly to the fund.

5 7. Any other sources of revenue designated by the general  
6 assembly.

7 Sec. 27. NEW SECTION. **68A.825 Powers and procedures.**

8 The board shall have the following powers and duties, in  
9 addition to those granted in this chapter and chapter 68B, when  
10 administering this subchapter:

11 1. After every primary and general election, the board  
12 may conduct random audits and investigations to ensure  
13 compliance with this subchapter. The subjects of such audits  
14 and investigations shall be selected on the basis of impartial  
15 criteria established by a vote of at least four members of the  
16 board.

17 2. *a.* The board may investigate anonymous complaints.

18 *b.* The identity of a complainant may be kept confidential  
19 if the complainant states in the complaint that revealing  
20 the identity of the complainant could reasonably result in  
21 disciplinary action or loss of employment.

22 3. The board may seek injunctions when all of the following  
23 conditions are met:

24 *a.* There is a substantial likelihood that a violation of  
25 this subchapter is occurring or is about to occur.

26 *b.* The failure to act expeditiously will result in  
27 irreparable harm to a party affected by the violation or  
28 potential violation.

29 *c.* Expeditious action will not cause undue harm or prejudice  
30 to the interests of others.

31 *d.* The public interest would be best served by the issuance  
32 of an injunction.

33 4. The board may levy civil penalties for violations of  
34 this subchapter. Civil penalties shall be deposited in the  
35 voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund.

1     5. The board shall refer criminal violations to the county  
2 attorney or attorney general for prosecution.

3     6. The board may participate fully in any actions filed  
4 under this section.

5     7. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as  
6 necessary to administer this subchapter.

7     Sec. 28. NEW SECTION. **68A.826 Civil actions.**

8     1. A citizen of this state who believes a candidate has  
9 violated this subchapter may pursue a civil action in a court  
10 of relevant jurisdiction, provided that both of the following  
11 are true:

12     a. The citizen has previously filed a complaint with the  
13 board regarding the same alleged violation.

14     b. The board has failed to make a determination within  
15 thirty days of the filing of the complaint.

16     2. A complainant who prevails in a civil action charging  
17 a violation of this subchapter shall be entitled to receive  
18 reasonable attorney fees and court costs from the defendant.

19     3. If a court in which a civil action has been filed under  
20 subsection 1 finds that the complaint in that action was  
21 made frivolously or without cause, the court may require the  
22 complainant to pay the costs of the board, the court, and the  
23 defendant parties.

24     Sec. 29. NEW SECTION. **68A.827 Board reports.**

25     1. The board shall report to the general assembly after each  
26 election cycle.

27     2. The report shall include a detailed summary of all  
28 seed money contributions, qualifying contributions, and clean  
29 election campaign funding benefits received, and expenditures  
30 made, by all participating candidates. The report shall also  
31 include a summary and evaluation of the board's activities and  
32 recommendations relating to the implementation, administration,  
33 and enforcement of this subchapter.

34     Sec. 30. NEW SECTION. **68A.828 Repayments of excess**  
35 **expenditures.**

1     1. If a participating candidate spends or obligates to spend  
2 more than the clean election campaign funding the candidate  
3 receives, and if such is determined not to be an amount that  
4 had or could have been expected to have a significant impact  
5 on the outcome of the election, the candidate shall personally  
6 repay to the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund an amount  
7 equal to the excess.

8     2. If a participating candidate spends or obligates to spend  
9 more than the clean election campaign funding the candidate  
10 receives, and if such is determined to be an amount that had or  
11 could have been expected to have a significant impact on the  
12 outcome of the election, the candidate shall personally repay  
13 to the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund an amount equal to  
14 five times the value of the excess.

15     Sec. 31. NEW SECTION. **68A.829 Penalties.**

16     1. A candidate shall not knowingly accept more benefits than  
17 those to which the candidate is entitled, spend more than the  
18 amount of clean election campaign funding received, or misuse  
19 such clean election campaign funding benefits or clean election  
20 campaign funding.

21     2. If a violation of subsection 1 was intentional and  
22 involved an amount that had or could have been expected to  
23 have a significant impact on the outcome of the election, the  
24 candidate commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

25     3. If it is determined that the violation of subsection  
26 1 was intentional and involved an amount that had or could  
27 have been expected to have a significant impact on the  
28 outcome of the election, and if, in the judgment of the  
29 board, the violation is believed to have contributed to the  
30 violator winning the election, the board may recommend to  
31 the appropriate authority that proceedings be commenced to  
32 remove the violator from office or to impeach the violator if  
33 applicable.

34     4. A person shall not provide false information to the board  
35 or conceal or withhold information from the board. A violation



1 of this subsection is an aggravated misdemeanor.

2 Sec. 32. NEW SECTION. **68A.830 Local provision.**

3 Each city council, school board, and county board of  
4 supervisors shall have the authority to adopt and fund a  
5 voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund, consistent with this  
6 subchapter, for local government elections.

7 Sec. 33. Section 422.7, Code 2015, is amended by adding the  
8 following new subsection:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 57. Subtract, to the extent not otherwise  
10 excluded, up to two hundred dollars of the amount contributed  
11 to the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund pursuant to  
12 section 68A.824, subsection 6.

13 Sec. 34. Section 422.12E, subsection 1, Code 2015, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 1. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2004,  
16 there shall be allowed no more than four income tax return  
17 checkoffs on each income tax return. When the same four income  
18 tax return checkoffs have been provided on the income tax  
19 return for two consecutive years, the two checkoffs for which  
20 the least amount has been contributed, in the aggregate for the  
21 first tax year and through March 15 of the second tax year, are  
22 repealed. This section does not apply to the income tax return  
23 ~~checkoff~~ checkoffs provided in ~~section~~ sections 68A.601 and  
24 68A.610.

25 Sec. 35. NEW SECTION. **422.12I Income tax checkoff for**  
26 **voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund.**

27 A person who files an individual or a joint income tax  
28 return with the department of revenue under section 422.13  
29 may designate a contribution to the voter-owned Iowa clean  
30 elections fund authorized pursuant to section 68A.610.

31 Sec. 36. Section 556.18, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended  
32 by adding the following new paragraph:

33 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Ten million dollars to be deposited  
34 in the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund established in  
35 section 68A.823.

1     Sec. 37. Section 556.18, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3     3. The treasurer of state shall annually credit all moneys  
4 received under section 556.4 to the general fund of the state.  
5 Moneys credited to the general fund of the state pursuant to  
6 this subsection are subject to the requirements of subsections  
7 1 and 2 and section 8.60. However, if the amount collected  
8 under subsection 2, paragraph "e", does not equal ten million  
9 dollars, the treasurer of state shall annually pay over an  
10 amount received under section 556.4 as necessary to bring the  
11 amount deposited in the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund  
12 to ten million dollars.

13     Sec. 38. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Act are  
14 severable as provided in section 4.12.

15     Sec. 39. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection  
16 3, shall not apply to this Act.

17     Sec. 40. EFFECTIVE DATES.

18     1. Except as provided in subsection 2, this Act takes effect  
19 November 7, 2018.

20     2. The following provision or provisions of this Act take  
21 effect January 1, 2016:

- 22     a. The section of this Act enacting section 68A.610.  
23     b. The section of this Act enacting section 422.12I.  
24     c. The section of this Act amending section 422.7.  
25     d. The section of this Act amending section 556.18.

26                                   EXPLANATION

27                   The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
28                   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29     This bill amends Code chapter 68A, relating to campaign  
30 finance law, by creating a voluntary mechanism for publicly  
31 financed elections and establishing contribution limits for  
32 candidates who do not participate in the public financing  
33 process.

34     The bill enacts a process for public financing for statewide  
35 and legislative elections and enacts new Code section 68A.801,

1 providing definitions for key terms related to this process.

2 New Code section 68A.823 establishes a separate,  
3 nonreverting fund in the state treasury to be known as the  
4 voter-owned Iowa clean elections (VOICE) fund, and new Code  
5 section 68A.824 provides sources of revenue for the fund.

6 New Code sections 68A.802 and 68A.803 specify the  
7 eligibility procedures for both party and independent  
8 candidates to become participating candidates, and specify  
9 the number of and details for collection of qualifying  
10 contributions.

11 New Code section 68A.805 provides that any candidate who  
12 accepts benefits during the primary election campaign period  
13 must continue to comply with the requirements of the public  
14 financing process, even if the candidate stops accepting  
15 benefits of the program at any point during the primary or  
16 general election campaign periods.

17 New Code section 68A.806 prohibits a participating candidate  
18 from accepting private funding during the primary and general  
19 election campaign periods other than certain permitted party  
20 funding. Contributions in the name of another person are  
21 prohibited and subject to payment to the board as are any  
22 applicable penalties. The use of personal funds for seed money  
23 or as qualifying contributions is limited by new Code section  
24 68A.809.

25 New Code section 68A.807 establishes contribution limits for  
26 those candidates who choose not to participate in the public  
27 financing process.

28 New Code section 68A.808 limits political party  
29 contributions and expenditures on behalf of participating  
30 candidates.

31 New Code section 68A.810 details the collection of private  
32 contributions for use as seed money, limited by new Code  
33 section 68A.809 to a \$100 contribution per individual person  
34 at least 18 years of age, and also limited in the aggregate in  
35 differing amounts for candidates for governor and lieutenant

1 governor, for other statewide candidates, for Iowa senate  
2 candidates, and for Iowa house of representatives candidates.  
3 Seed money expenditures are limited to the clean election  
4 campaign qualifying period and seed money contributions and  
5 expenditures must be fully disclosed at the end of the public  
6 financing qualifying period.

7 New Code section 68A.812 provides for a certification  
8 process after a candidate applies for public financing campaign  
9 funding benefits and requires repayment of funds if eligibility  
10 is revoked. The bill provides for audit and judicial review of  
11 certification decisions made by the board.

12 New Code section 68A.813 provides certain benefits and  
13 obligations for participating candidates, including specified  
14 amounts of public funding pursuant to new Code section  
15 68A.815, mandatory participation in debates pursuant to new  
16 Code sections 68A.811 and 68A.822, and, pursuant to new Code  
17 section 68A.817, additional limited public funding to respond  
18 to certain excess expenditures by nonparticipating candidates,  
19 independent expenditures, and electioneering communications  
20 expenditures.

21 New Code section 68A.814 provides for a schedule of payments  
22 to participating candidates, and new Code section 68A.815  
23 specifies differing total amounts for primary and general  
24 elections for candidates for governor and lieutenant governor,  
25 for other statewide candidates, for Iowa senate candidates,  
26 and for Iowa house of representatives candidates. Alternate  
27 amounts are provided for uncontested races. Pursuant to new  
28 Code section 68A.816, clean election campaign funding payments  
29 must be used only for campaign-related expenses, and cannot be  
30 used for payments in violation of law or to repay personal or  
31 business loans, expenditures, or debts.

32 New Code section 68A.817 provides that nonparticipating  
33 candidates must disclose within 48 hours every expenditure  
34 in excess of the public financing funding allocated to the  
35 candidate's participating opponent that in the aggregate is

1 more than \$1,000. Certain other reporting requirements apply  
2 during the last 20 days of a campaign.

3 All candidates must include a statement with all  
4 advertisements indicating that the candidate has approved of  
5 the contents of the advertisement, pursuant to new Code section  
6 68A.818.

7 New Code section 68A.819 provides that persons making  
8 certain independent expenditures must report such expenditures  
9 to the board, along with an affidavit affirming that the  
10 expenditure has not been coordinated with the candidate or  
11 party. Alleged violations of the coordination affirmation are  
12 subject to an expedited hearing procedure.

13 Persons making certain electioneering communications must  
14 also report to the board, pursuant to new Code section 68A.820.

15 New Code section 68A.821 provides that the board shall  
16 administer a voter information program, including establishment  
17 of an advisory council, to provide voters with election-related  
18 information, including a voter guide with candidate  
19 biographical material, policy statements, voting records, and  
20 whether the candidate funds the campaign with public or private  
21 money.

22 New Code section 68A.825 provides the board with certain  
23 specific enforcement powers and duties in relation to the  
24 new subchapter, and new Code section 68A.827 provides for an  
25 election cycle report by the board to the general assembly on  
26 the public financing process.

27 New Code section 68A.826 creates a civil right of action for  
28 citizens alleging that a candidate has violated the law.

29 Violations of the public financing process are subject  
30 to aggravated misdemeanor penalties, pursuant to new Code  
31 section 68A.829. An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable  
32 by confinement for not more than two years and a fine of at  
33 least \$625 but not more than \$6,250. New Code section 68A.828  
34 provides for repayment of certain excess expenditures by the  
35 candidate.

1 New Code sections 68A.610 and 422.12I create an income tax  
2 checkoff for the voter-owned Iowa clean elections fund. This  
3 checkoff allows a person to direct that \$5 of that person's  
4 state income tax liability be paid over to the Iowa voter-owned  
5 clean elections fund.

6 Code section 422.7, new subsection 57, is enacted to  
7 provide up to a \$200 exemption from income for purposes of the  
8 individual income tax for contributions to the Iowa voter-owned  
9 clean elections fund.

10 Code section 556.18 is amended to provide that \$10 million  
11 shall be annually transferred from the proceeds from the sale  
12 by the state of lost or unclaimed property to the voter-owned  
13 Iowa clean elections fund.

14 The sections of the bill enacting the income tax checkoff,  
15 the exemption from the individual income tax, and the transfer  
16 in Code section 556.18 take effect January 1, 2016. The  
17 remainder of the bill takes effect November 7, 2018, which  
18 is the day after the 2018 general election day, to allow the  
19 public financing process to commence with a new campaign cycle.  
20 New Code section 68A.804 provides guidelines for disposition of  
21 money collected by candidates prior to the effective date of  
22 the public financing process.

23 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
24 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,  
25 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from  
26 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of  
27 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,  
28 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state  
29 mandate included in the bill.